

May 2, 1975

Therefore, there were some objections from the introducers of the bill in regard to the idea that each county should be allowed, or required, to have its own weed board. The committee, in effect, tried to work a compromise and did this, we drafted the amendments to read that those counties which presently do not have a weed board would allow the county board to serve in that capacity and retain that position. There was no effective matter for the people who felt that the weed board or the county board was not functioning properly to return to having a separate weed board. So the committee adopted an amendment which provides that if 10 percent of the voters petitioned for an election . . . an election can be held that will determine whether or not the county wants to re-establish the position of a county weed board in the county. Basically, what the committee amendments do is this, it gives the counties which presently are operating their own weed control system from the county board the option of retaining that position, plus it gives the voters who are dissatisfied with the performance of the county board the option available to return to a separate county weed board. That's all the amendments do, with one further exception. The original language of the bill speaks about irradiation of weeds. Now anyone who has any experience with agriculture knows . . . or with weeds for that matter knows that it's impossible to irradiate weeds. In order for the language to be in compliance with actual fact we refer to weed control which is consistent with the intent of the Nebraska weed law. Senator Lewis has some amendments to the committee amendments which seriously change the intent. I will speak to those amendments after he offers them. Again I move the adoption of the committee amendments. I would suggest that they be adopted and then we could proceed with Senator Lewis' amendments if you prefer.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, the Chair didn't quite understand that. You're urging the adoption of these amendments before we discuss the amendments of Senator Richard Lewis?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes I would do that.

PRESIDENT: Alright. Senator Lewis, do you want to be recognized now? Well Senator Murphy, do you want to entertain while that . . .

SENATOR MURPHY: I could tell you a story or two.

PRESIDENT: Alright.

SENATOR MURPHY: They'll shut off the cameras if I do. That might be a good idea. No, I had a question of Senator Schmit that I will . . . or possibly to one of the other committee members. It has to do with this 10 percent of the vote. In my county, South Sioux City is 90 percent of the population of the county. It would take every rural family voting. I doubt if you're going to interest too many of those people down there in the blacktop area with whether there's muskthistle or not. I think possibly he might want to alter his voting procedure to incorporate the rural families who are really affected by this thing. He would have to get every single rural family to constitute 10 percent of the population in my particular county.